

South Carolina Science Academy

2015 Marion Street
Columbia, SC 29201



South Carolina State Report Card

State and federal laws require public schools to release report cards to the public each year. This year, the report card has been updated to reflect changes in reporting directed by the SC Education Oversight Committee. Schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017 when the state will transition to a single accountability system. The following reports student performance in school year 2014-15.

Grades:	6-9 Middle	Principal:	Alisha Truesdale-Cotton
Enrollment:	131 students	Superintendent:	Wayne Brazell, Ph.D.
School Phone:	803-227-6422	Board Chair:	Warren Engle
School Website:	www.scscienceacademy.org		



Profile of the SC Graduate

World Class Knowledge

- Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness
- Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences*

World Class Skills

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication, information, media and technology
- Knowing how to learn

Life and Career Characteristics

- Integrity
- Self-direction
- Global perspective
- Perseverance
- Work ethic
- Interpersonal skills

WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

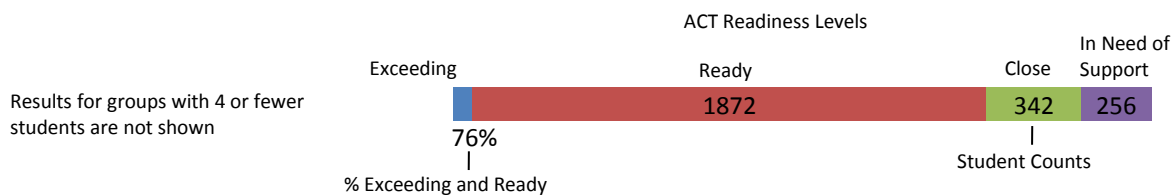
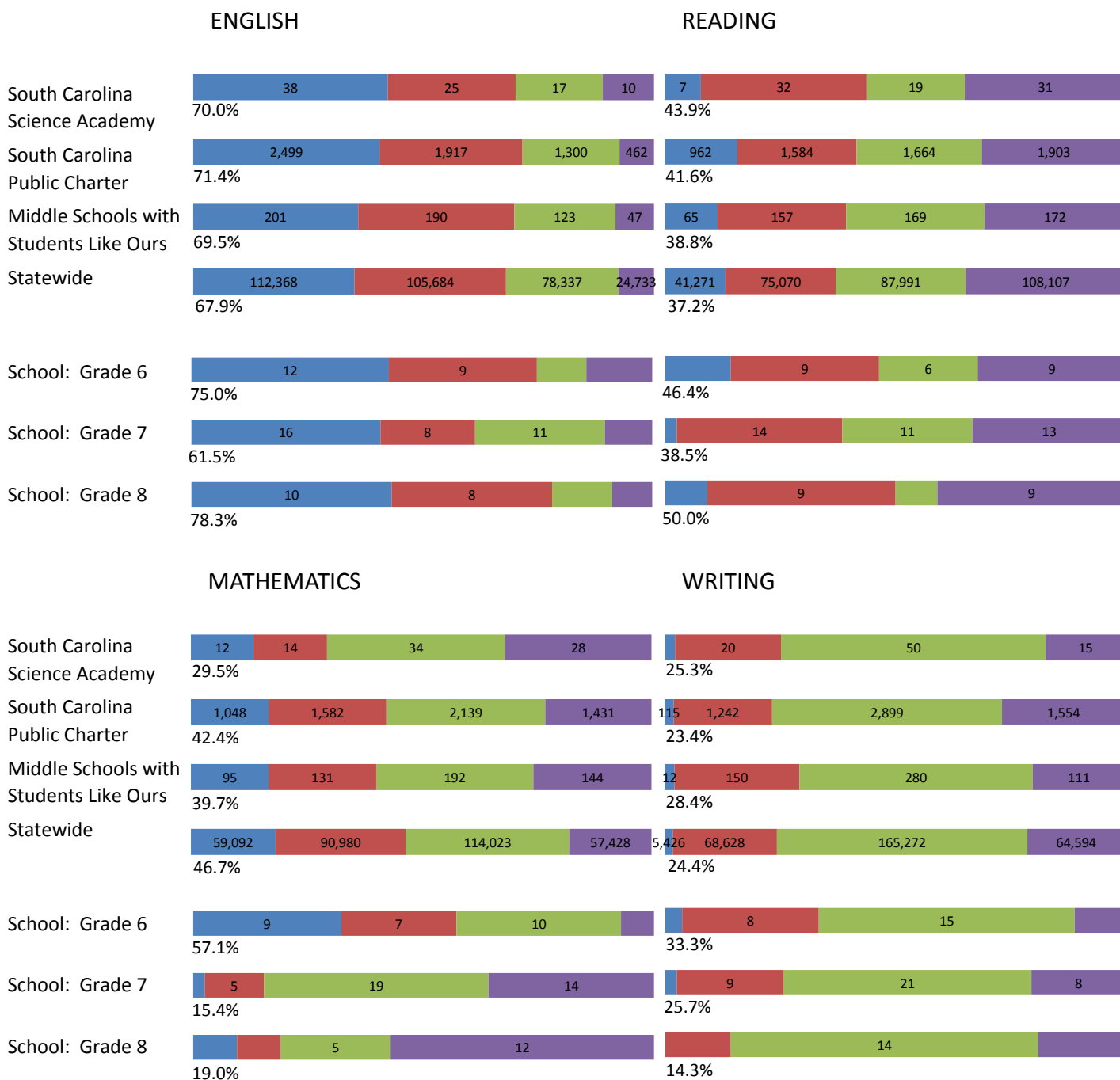
Our school is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate by ...

The mission of the South Carolina Science Academy (SCSA) is to develop innovative leaders by providing to a diverse student body a world-class education designed with a science focus within the core academic courses through emphasizing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The 2014-2015 school year marked South Carolina Science Academy's inaugural year. Our goal for the first year was to focus on fine-tuning our educational program through the use of relevant, research-based instructional strategies. We spent the first week of school engaged in Project-based Learning professional development. Additionally, we received teacher support throughout the school year from the S²STEM Center to further the school's mission. SCSA is a STEM driven institution. In a STEM driven environment, the emphasis on learning is an interdisciplinary approach that provides hands-on and relevant learning experiences for students. It goes beyond just the transfer of knowledge, but provides students with a deeper understanding. STEM instruction equips students with critical thinking and problem solving skills that establish connections between school, work, community, and ultimately the world. STEM also helps lay the foundation for college and career readiness by assisting with an in-depth understanding of math and science and practical application. In keeping with the true focus of STEM education, we engaged our students with a technology-based, hands-on educational experience. At SCSA, our parent group, SCSA Parents and Teachers Helping Students (SCSA P.A.T.H.S.), is truly the heart of our school. SCSA P.A.T.H.S. sponsored field studies for our students, hosted a Spaghetti Dinner and Auction Night, and sponsored a spring Italian ice social from Rita's. At the South Carolina Science Academy, our goal is to ultimately become reflective practitioners that foster an environment of acceptance, respect, and academic success through the use of rigorous classroom instruction and community service.

* 21st Century core courses in Social Sciences include History, Geography, Economics, Government and Civics.

KNOWLEDGE

The ACT Aspire assessment was given to students in grades 3-8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Reading, English, Mathematics and Writing



Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

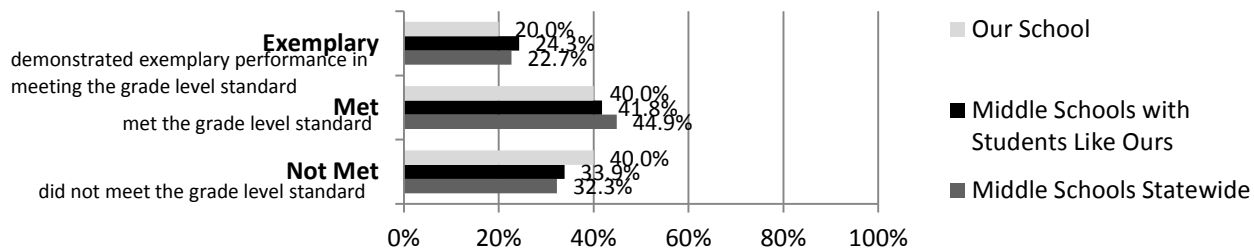
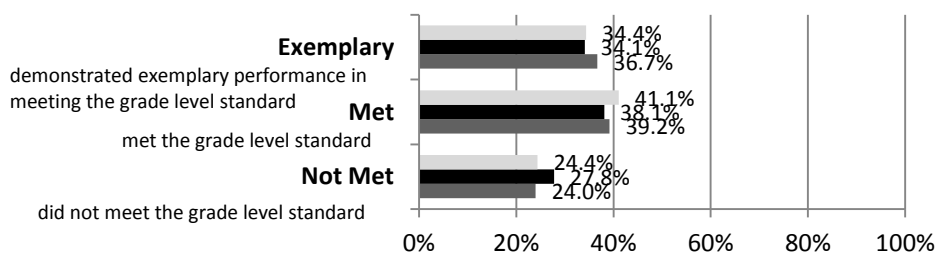
N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample

KNOWLEDGE

The SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) was given to students in grades 4 - 8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Science and Social Studies.

Science**Social Studies****Science SCPASS**

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level		
6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
53.6	64.1	60.9

Social Studies SCPASS

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level		
6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
82.1	79.5	60.9

Note: Results include SC-Alt assessment results.

Exemplary

"Exemplary": student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.

Met

"Met": student met the grade level standard.

Not Met

"Not Met": student did not meet the grade level standard.

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	80.0	95.4
English 1	88.9	91.9
Biology 1	100.0	75.4
US History and the Constitution	N/A	47.8
All Subjects	87.7	93.7

Middle Schools with Students Like Ours are middle schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the school.

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OPPORTUNITIES

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with students like ours
Students (n = 131)			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	69.0	N/A	N/A
Percent of students (grade 7 & 8) enrolled in HS credit courses	49.4	N/A	29.8
Attendance Rate	93.6	N/A	95.4
With disabilities	13.8	N/A	13.0
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0	N/A	0.7
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	3.4	N/A	23.8
Percentage of students retained	0.0	N/A	0.6
Annual dropout rate	0.0	No change	0.0
Teachers (n = 14)			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	50.0	N/A	62.3
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	21.4	N/A	81.5
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	87.0
Teacher attendance rate	N/A	N/A	94.6
Average teacher salary*	\$39,571	N/A	\$48,719
Professional development days / teacher	9.2 days	N/A	11.1 days
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	16.7	N/A	0.6
School			
Principal's years at school	1.0	N/A	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	13.2 to 1	N/A	23.4 to 1
Prime instructional time	N/A	N/A	88.3
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	N/A	Good
Opportunities in foreign languages	Poor	N/A	Poor
AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	No	N/A	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0	N/A	99.5
Character development program	Excellent	N/A	Good
Avg. age of books / electronic media in the school library	N/A	N/A	15.0
Number of resources available per student in the school library media center	N/A	N/A	20.5
Bandwidth capacity per student	N/A	N/C	N/A
Percent of classrooms with wireless access	N/A	N/C	N/A
District-issued learning devices per student	N/A	N/C	0.7
District-issued technology devices per teacher	N/A	N/C	1.9
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	55.4	N/A	2.3
Dollars spent per pupil**	N/A	N/A	\$7,675
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	N/A	N/A	62.7
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	N/A	N/A	64.0

* Includes current year teachers contracted for 190 days or more.

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

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OPPORTUNITIES**Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents****Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents**

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	15	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with learning environment	46.7	I/S	I/S
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	46.7	I/S	I/S
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	73.3	I/S	I/S

* Only students at the highest middle school grade and their parents were included.

State Ratings History of School

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating
2014	N/A	N/A
2013	N/A	N/A
2012	N/A	N/A

Based on state law, schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017.

Additional Resources

SC State Content Standards
[Family-Friendly Guides to the SC Content Standards](#)
[2014-15 Accountability Manual](#)
[Report Card Data Files](#)
[ESEA Data Files](#)

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